

The Address—Mr. Woodsworth

responsive to the influences which underlie the contagious industrial unrest that is noticeable throughout the world to-day.

Then I turn to another document that goes on in very much the same strain. This is a very well gotten up publication, issued by the city of Montreal and, I am sorry to say, signed by Fernand Rinfret, the member for St. James. I find the following under the heading of "The Factory Labour Situation:"

With his background of religious instruction and social training, the French Canadian workman is solid. . . . The French Canadian is happy and philosophically content with his lot. . . . Families are proverbially large.

The women are industrious, trained in craft work, and skilled in machine tasks. . . .

As the most highly developed industrial centre of Canada, Montreal is the logical reservoir for skilled and unskilled labour. As the chief port of entry from Europe, Montreal ordinarily holds a substantial percentage of the incoming industrial workers.

Consequently the stability of the permanent labour body, coupled with opportunities which a floating population normally presents, make Montreal an ideal source of factory labour.

If the French Canadians are content to be hewers of wood and drawers of water, then with its large surplus population Montreal undoubtedly offers wonderful facilities for the setting up of American factories. This publication continues:

The city's labour problem is minimized, particularly in times of depression, by the absence of organized socialist or communist bodies.

If this pamphlet had told the whole truth it would have stated that anyone making a protest would be promptly clubbed.

Mr. LAVERGNE: Not in Montreal.

Mr. WOODSWORTH: Yes, in Montreal. The hon. member will remember that last year I quoted from an article which appeared in the Montreal Witness.

Mr. LAVERGNE: But the hon. member was not quoting facts.

Mr. WOODSWORTH: I quoted from a paper which I have found to be quite reliable. The speech from the throne goes on to say:

—this season's bountiful harvest forecasts greatly improved conditions—

I do not think that statement is true of the west. I do admit that there is a little more money passing, that certain benefits have accrued because of freight charges and so on, that a certain amount of money is paid for materials purchased from the east and to that extent the eastern financial interests are benefiting, but the western farmer's interest is not so much in the size of the crop as in the question of markets, prices and debts. Without a larger market, without increased

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prices and without a decrease in debts the position of the western farmer is absolutely hopeless and unless the western farmers succeed the whole west goes down.

I should like to repeat an incident related to me last year by a gentleman who first definitely verified the facts. A woman came into town to purchase some garden seeds—I do not know whether or not she had been told that she ought to go into mixed farming as a solution of her troubles—and brought with her four dozen eggs. She was able to sell the eggs at only five cents per dozen, receiving in all twenty cents. She bought two packets of garden peas for which she paid ten cents each and upon her return home she counted the peas and found there were only thirty-three. This incident is almost an epitome of the conditions which exist throughout the west with regard to most commodities and illustrates the situation facing even mixed farmers. Without arguing the case, I say that there must be either a scaling down of debts, a lowering of interest rates or a measure of inflation, or reflation, if you like. Only this will accomplish the desired results. It is the only way by which the west can exist and let me warn that if the west is permanently out of business it will be hard on eastern Canada. Even for selfish reasons the west cannot be ignored.

The Prime Minister emphasizes the fact that his government stands for a sound money policy and he ridicules any reforms in money matters by referring to them as cheap nostrums in the form of quack remedies. He was so enamoured of the phrase that he rolled it over four or five times.

Miss MACPHAIL: A sweet morsel.

Mr. WOODSWORTH: Yes, a sweet morsel to be rolled under his tongue.

Had the Prime Minister been present I would have called to his attention an article which appeared in a recent issue of *Time and Tide*. This article is by Sir Arthur Salter, to whom the Prime Minister referred last spring as ranking as one of the foremost authorities in the world at the moment. Sir Arthur says:

I believe that a concerted policy of reflation to a determined point would be an immense advantage to the whole world.

I have read the speech from the throne very carefully but I can find no indication of any comprehensive program to meet changed world conditions. In other parts of the world they are awakening more rapidly than are we to the need of more fundamental changes, and in this connection I should like